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ABSTRACT

The purpose of this research was to isolate and study 2 separate alienation dimensions in relation to other personality characteristics associated with psychopathology. Social alienation and self alienation are conceived as psychological constructs here and distinguished conceptually in the following manner: social alienation is taken here as an individual's sense of detachment from and distrust of his social environment. Self alienation is conceived as an individual's sense of detachment from his own feelings, thoughts, and identity. Personality characteristics, especially those associated with psychopathology, were defined by elevations on the clinical scales of the MMPI. The hypothesis that social alienation would be related to indices of "psychoticism" was partially born out in the significant association between the social alienation scale and the related scales on the MMPI. Results also suggested a relationship between self alienation and "neuroticism;" however, there was a great deal of overlapping of the alienation measures. (RK)

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PERSONALITY CORRELATES OF SOCIAL AND SELF ALIENATION IN COLLEGE STUDENTS

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Self and social alienation measures were found related to other personality characteristics associated with psychopathology. The results are discussed in terms of their implications for alienation as a personality construct.

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Alienation has become a household word in the past few years. The possible significance of this surge of interest in alienation and what this event itself implies about some of our current social difficulties is an intriguing question, and one quite beyond the scope of this paper, which seeks to begin, crudely, to ferret out the implications of alienation theories for the study of personality.

The purpose of this research was to isolate and study two separate alienation dimensions in relation to other personality characteristics associated with psychopathology. Social alienation and self alienation are conceived as psychological constructs here and distinguished conceptually in the following manner: Social alienation is taken here as an individual's sense of detachment from and distrust of his social environment, including feelings that others do not share, and may even stand in the way of, his private, personal goals. (Note that this conception is different from the related sociological "anomy" construct in that it refers only to an individual's feelings and perceptions, rather than to external conditions. The relation of feelings of social

alienation to social processes is not illuminated here.)

Self alienation, on the other hand, is conceived as an individual's sense of detachment from his own feelings, thoughts, and identity, or, in short, his sense of estrangement from himself. In the present study, two separate scales were used to assess an individual's degree of alienation along these two dimensions. These alienation scales will be described shortly.

Personality characteristics, especially those associated with psychopathology, were defined by elevations on the clinical scales of the MMPI. In interpreting these test results, particular attention was given to distinguishing personality patterns distinct to the separate alienation dimensions. This involved the use of statistical procedures sensitive to the joint operation--or patterning--of MMPI scales. Because social alienation might be expected to render individuals insensitive to external norms and consensual validation of cognitive processes, it was hypothesized that elevations on the "psychotic" MMPI scales would be closely associated with the social alienation measure. Similarly, the self alienation state suggests the operation of more typically neurotic psychological defenses, such as repression, denial, and externalization. Thus it was hypothesized that the "neurotic" MMPI scales would be more closely associated with this alienation dimension.

Sample. The sample from which the data were collected

consisted of undergraduate students at the University of Massachusetts enrolled in the Introductory Psychology course. Protocols were obtained from 37 male and 26 female students who volunteered to complete the questionnaires and tests to fulfill part of their course requirements.

Procedure. The self alienation scale was comprised of five statements reflecting 1) experience of one's actions as alien, 2) experience of one's self as alien, 3) experience of one's past as alien or unknown, 4) experience of one's dreams and fantasy as meaningless, and 5) the experience of uncertainty as to one's own feelings. The specific items were:

1) I often do things without knowing why.
2) Very often I feel like a stranger to myself.
3) I remember most of what happened in my early childhood.
4) My dreams seldom make much sense to me.
5) Often it's hard to me to make up my mind because I don't know how I really feel about something.

Social alienation was assessed by Srole's five-item "anomy" scale. This scale consists of these items:

1) In spite of what some people say, things are getting worse for the average man.
2) It is hardly fair to bring children into the world with the way things look for the future.
3) Nowadays a person has to live pretty much for today and let tomorrow take care of itself.

4) There is little use in writing to public officials because often they aren't really interested in the problems of the average man.

5) These days a person doesn't really know who he can count on.

Both alienation scales were administered with instructions to respond to each item on a four-point scale ranging from strong agreement to strong disagreement. Agreement with all items except the third on the self alienation scale is scored in the alienated direction. The MMPI was administered in the group booklet form and 14 validity and clinical scales were scored in the standard manner with the K correction added.

Results. The alienation scales were checked for internal consistency by calculation of two correlation coefficients for each item. Table 1 reports the correlation of each item with the full scale (of which the item itself is a part) as well as the correlation of each item with the sum of the remaining items. These coefficients establish the range in which the true item contribution is located and, as a measure of internal consistency of the scales, make it possible to assess their cohesiveness.

Both alienation scales were next correlated with the 10 clinical scales of the MMPI. Table 2 reports these correlation coefficients. Significant correlations were found between the self alienation scale and the Hs, D, Pd, Pa, Pt, and Sc MMPI scales. Social alienation socres correlate significantly

with Pd, Pa, Sc, and Ma. These correlations allow an appreciation of the common variance between individual variables. To study the joint effects of variables, discriminant analyses were employed.

A discriminant analysis results in the extraction of canonical variates (roots) differentiating the independent groups along statistical dimensions derived from optimal weighting of the dependent measures. In the present study this allowed a powerful test of the ability of MMPI profile patterns to characterize and distinguish social and self alienation groups formed on the basis of scores on the alienation scales. The correlation, or loading, of the original variables with the root(s) may be interpreted as reflecting the degree to which the root approximates the original variable, and suggests the conceptual nature of the statistical dimension.

Turning first to social alienation, the data for male and female groups were divided into high and low groups by partitioning at the alienation scale mean. Table 3 reports the variable means, a test of significant mean differences, and the correlation of each original variable with the discriminant root extracted for both groups on this scale. Only the female group analysis yielded a significant discriminant root, and that one root alone seems to describe the statistical dimension that differentiates the high and low socially alienated female subjects. It appears that the F, Sc, and Es scales of the MMPI contribute most to this differentiation.

The subjects were then divided into high and low self alienation groups, with the division again taking place at the scale mean. Two more discriminant analyses were performed and are reported in Table 4. The discriminant roots failed to reach significance in both groups, and no individual MMPI scale appears to load heavily with the roots.

All subjects were next sorted into four groups on the basis of their alienation scale scores. The sample was divided into high and low social alienation scorers with the division being accomplished at the group mean. These two groups were again similarly divided into high and low self alienation scorers. These successive divisions results in four groups: 1) those scoring high on both scales (N = 18); 2) those scoring high on social alienation and low of self alienation (N = 12); 3) those scoring low on social alienation and high on self alienation (N = 15); and 4) those scoring low on both alienation scales (N = 18). A discriminant analysis was performed on these four groups with the MMPI scale scores as dependent measures. This analysis resulted in the extraction of three roots or dimensions differentiating the four groups, as reported in Table 5. Only the first root attains statistical significance, however, indicating that group differences on MMPI scale scores may be conceptualized along a single significant dimension. The MMPI scales showing high positive correlations with this root and significant differences between groups are F, Pa, Sc, and Ma. K and Es show high

negative loadings.

A second discriminant analysis comparing Group 2 and Group 3 did not result in the extraction of a significant discriminant root, as seen in Table 6.

A final discriminant analysis comparing Group 1 and Group 4 yields a single significant discriminant root, as reported in Table 7. The following MMPI scales load positively on this root and elicit significant differences between groups: F, Hs, D, Pd, Pa, Pt, Sc, Ma, and Si. K and Es show high negative loadings. The MMPI scale means for the four groups, and significant differences, are summarized in Table 8.

Implications and conclusions. The hypothesis that social alienation would be related to indices of "psychoticism" is partially borns out in the significant association between the social alienation scale and the Pd, Pa, Sc, and Ma scales of the MMPI. The self alienation scale is associated with the Hs, D, and Pt scales, but also appears related to the Sc, Pa, and Pd scales. This we interpret as suggesting a relationship between self alienation and "neuroticism" but indicating as well an important overlapping of the alienation measures.

To discern the joint operation of MMPI scales in differentiation of highly self alienated from high socially alienated individuals, discriminant analyses were employed. Results of the discriminant analyses are interpreted as indicating that those individuals who are highly alienated from either self or society (but not both) do not display significantly different

personality patterns. However, those individuals who are highly alienated from both self and society give pathological responses on a wide range of clinical indices studied here.

Interpretation of "naming" of statistical roots presents a multitude of problems. It is interesting to note, however, from the nature of the MMPI scales with high negative and high positive loadings on this root (F, Sc, Es, K), that diffuse, frankly pathological statements characterize the highly alienated, while those low on alienation appear to be characterized by a somewhat more guarded and restrained response pattern.

The results obtained in the present study indicate that furthre attention should be given to conceptualizing the similarities and differences pertaining to alienated persons, and suggest the value of attempting to refine the popular alienation construct as a personality variable.

Table 1

Correlation of Alienation Scales and MMPI Profiles

	Social Alienation Scale	Self Alienation Scale
MMPI, Hs	.164	.260*
MMPI, D	.183	.250*
MMPI, Hy	.065	.224
MMPI, Pd	.264*	.259*
MMPI, Mf	.002	-.004
MMPI, Pa	.293*	.325*
MMPI, Pt	.082	.270*
MMPI, Sc	.322*	.357*
MMPl, Ma	.379*	.110
MMPI, Si	.175	.214

*$p \leq .05$.

Table 2

Correlations of Social and Self Alienation

Scales with MMPI Scales

MMPI Scale	Male Student (N=37)		Female Student (N=26)		All Student (N=63)	
	AS	SE	AS	SE	AS	SE
MMPI, L	-.060	-.109	.138	-.129	.022	-.168
MMPI, F	.522*	.432*	.385*	.404*	.433*	.418*
MMPI, K	-.269	-.171	-.441*	-.270	-.354*	-.208
MMPI, Hs	.190	.272	.190	.246	.164	.260*
MMPI, D	.252	.224	.136	.296	.183	.250*
MMPI, Hy	.052	.231	.121	.214	.065	.224
MMPI, Pd	.224	.287	.438*	.217	.264*	.259*
MMPI, Mf	.045	-.058	.332	.028	.002	-.004
MMPI, Pa	.209	.257	.483*	.473*	.293*	.325*
MMPI, Pt	.243	.224	-.063	.363	.082	.270*
MMPI, Sc	.440*	.381*	.296	.358	.322*	.357*
MMPI, Ma	.245	.147	.535*	.076	.379*	.110
MMPI, Si	.318*	.251	-.041	.164	.175	.214
MMPI, Total	.321*	.312*	.374*	.374*	.276*	.317*

* $p < .05$.

Table 3

High and Low Social Alienation: Discriminant Analysis of MMPI Profiles for Males and Females

	Male students				Female students			
Variable	High AS (N=17) Mean	Low AS (N=20) Mean	F ratio	Loading	High AS (N=13) Mean	Low AS (N=13) Mean	F ratio	Loading
SE Scale	13.11	12.15	1.35	.25	13.30	11.69	3.00	.35
MMPI, ?	1.94	8.35	2.55	-.34	1.84	6.38	0.97	-.21
MMPI, L	46.05	46.25	0.01	-.02	46.23	46.00	0.01	.02
MMPI, F	71.29	57.60	11.37**	.65	65.76	52.46	9.53**	.56
MMPI, K	49.35	53.10	2.77	-.35	45.69	54.00	12.39**	-.62
MMPI, Hs	59.88	54.70	2.70	.35	55.23	51.15	1.75	.27
MMPI, D	71.05	61.05	4.48*	.44	63.69	58.76	0.93	.20
MMPI, Hy	62.47	61.55	0.10	.07	61.07	57.30	1.15	.22
MMPI, Pd	70.64	68.05	0.30	.12	69.00	57.46	10.73**	.59
MMPI, Mf	69.35	66.70	0.52	.16	45.69	40.61	3.41	.37
MMPI, Pa	64.23	57.05	3.01	.37	64.15	53.92	11.04**	.59
MMPI, Pt	76.00	66.65	4.26*	.43	64.23	62.46	0.12	.07
MMPI, Sc	80.29	66.05	7.49**	.55	67.69	56.76	5.92*	.47
MMPI, Ma	68.05	65.75	0.45	.14	72.38	54.46	13.29**	.63
MMPI, Si	60.25	50.25	4.53*	.44	60.23	57.07	0.57	.16
MMPI, Es	46.52	55.35	6.31**	-.51	49.69	58.30	4.62*	-.42
Root 1 percent of variance: 100%					100%			
Chi-square: 23.76 (p=.09)					36.69 (p=.009)			

*p <.05.

**p <.01.

Table 4

High and Low Self Alienation: Discriminant Analysis of MMPI Profiles for Males and Females

Variable	Male students				Female students			
	High SE (N=20) Mean	Low SE (N=17) Mean	F ratio	Loading	High SE (N=13) Mean	Low SE (N=13) Mean	F ratio	Loading
AS Scale	12.20	10.47	4.42*	.54	12.23	11.76	0.14	.08
MMPI, ?	4.05	7.00	0.51	-.19	1.23	7.00	1.61	-.29
MMPI, L	45.15	47.35	1.43	-.32	44.76	47.46	1.55	-.28
MMPI, F	68.25	58.76	4.66*	.56	63.23	55.00	2.92	.38
MMPI, K	50.75	52.11	0.34	-.16	48.07	51.61	1.58	-.28
MMPI, Hs	59.55	54.17	2.92	.45	53.76	52.61	0.13	.08
MMPI, D	67.65	63.29	0.76	.24	63.07	59.38	0.51	.16
MMPI, Hy	63.55	60.11	1.53	.33	60.38	58.00	0.44	.15
MMPI, Pd	73.30	64.47	3.90*	.52	63.15	63.30	0.00	-.00
MMPI, Mf	66.25	69.88	0.99	-.27	42.38	43.92	0.27	-.12
MMPI, Pa	63.15	57.05	2.11	.39	62.69	55.38	4.59*	.46
MMPI, Pt	72.85	68.70	0.76	.23	67.30	59.38	2.79	.37
MMPI, Sc	77.70	66.58	4.20*	.53	66.00	58.46	2.50	.35
MMPI, Ma	68.60	64.70	1.32	.31	61.84	65.00	0.26	-.12
MMPI, Si	57.90	53.88	1.11	.28	60.61	56.69	0.90	.22
MMPI, Es	49.85	53.00	0.69	-.22	52.30	55.69	0.61	-.18
Root 1 percent of variance:			100%				100%	
Chi-square:			13.21 (p=.64)				23.29 (p=.08)	

*p < .05.

**p < .01.

Table 5

High and Low Alienation Groups:

Discriminant Analysis of MMPI Profiles

Variable	Group 1 Hi Self and Hi Social	Group 2 Lo Self and Hi Social	Group 3 Hi Self and Lo Social	Group 4 Lo Self and Lo Social	F ratio	Loading[1]
MMPI, ?	2.11	1.63	3.93	10.61	2.11	-.36
MMPI, L	44.61	48.63	45.47	46.72	1.29	-.13
MMPI, F	73.56	59.00	57.53	53.94	10.08**	.79
MMPI, K	46.33	50.09	53.73	53.22	4.73**	-.58
MMPI, Hs	59.22	55.27	54.93	51.94	1.99	.41
MMPI, D	69.78	63.27	61.13	59.33	1.93	.41
MMPI, Hy	63.55	59.18	60.80	59.11	0.94	.24
MMPI, Pd	73.61	63.09	64.13	63.67	2.51	.41
MMPI, Mf	59.33	60.18	53.86	58.56	0.39	.07
MMPI, Pa	67.17	58.54	57.93	54.06	4.87**	.61
MMPI, Pt	74.67	63.63	65.86	64.28	2.15	.38
MMPI, Sc	80.17	65.09	64.60	60.56	6.16**	.65
MMPI, Ma	70.78	67.54	60.13	62.28	2.82*	.44
MMPI, Si	61.22	57.27	56.26	52.67	1.98	.41
MMPI, Es	45.78	52.45	56.86	56.22	4.22**	-.55

Root 1 percent of variance: 72.75

Chi-square: 39.43 ($p=.002$)

Root 2 percent of variance: 18.23

Chi-square: 12.92 ($p=.61$)

Root 3 percent of variance: 9.02

Chi-square: 6.78 ($p=.91$)

[1]Loadings for Root 1 only.

*$p < .05$.

**$p < .01$.

Table 6

High Social-Low Self Alienation and Low Social-High Self Alienation Groups: Discriminant Analysis of MMPI Profiles

Variable	Group 2 High Social and Low Self Alienation	Group 3 Low Social and High Self Alienation	F ratio	Loading
MMPI, ?	1.63	3.93	1.34	-.30
MMPI, L	48.63	45.46	3.57	.47
MMPI, F	59.00	57.53	0.19	.11
MMPI, K	50.09	53.73	2.06	-.36
MMPI, Hs	55.27	54.93	0.01	.02
MMPI, D	63.27	61.13	0.13	.09
MMPI, Hy	59.18	60.80	0.31	-.14
MMPI, Pd	63.09	64.13	0.03	-.04
MMPI, Mf	60.18	53.86	0.90	.24
MMPI, Pa	58.54	57.93	0.03	.04
MMPI, Pt	63.63	65.86	0.15	-.10
MMPI, Sc	65.09	64.60	0.00	.02
MMPI, Ma	67.54	60.13	2.71	.41
MMPI, Si	57.27	56.26	0.05	.06
MMPI, Es	52.45	56.86	1.12	-.27

Root 1 percent of variance: 100%

Chi-square: 15.42 ($p=.42$)

Table 7

High Alienation and Low Alienation Groups:

Discriminant Analysis of MMPI Profiles

Variable	Group 1 High Self and High Social Alienation	Group 4 Low Self and Low Social Alienation	F ratio	Loading
MMPI, ?	2.05	10.61	3.14	-.35
MMPI, L	44.68	46.72	0.98	-.20
MMPI, F	74.63	53.94	27.12**	.80
MMPI, K	46.42	53.22	9.80**	-.57
MMPI, Hs	59.36	51.94	5.96*	.46
MMPI, D	70.52	59.33	6.64*	.48
MMPI, Hy	63.42	59.11	1.85	.27
MMPI, Pd	73.89	63.66	8.05**	.52
MMPI, Mf	58.47	58.55	0.00	-.00
MMPI, Pa	67.47	54.05	12.32**	.62
MMPI, Pt	75.10	64.27	6.40*	.47
MMPI, Sc	80.47	60.55	17.60**	.70
MMPI, Ma	71.31	62.27	4.82*	.42
MMPI, Si	61.94	52.66	6.83*	.49
MMPI, Es	45.26	56.22	10.76**	-.59

Root 1 percent of variance: 100%

Chi-square: 31.74 ($p=.007$)

*$p < .05$.

**$p < .01$.

Table 8

Mean T-Scores of MMPI Scales[1]

Variable	Group 1	Group 2	Group 3	Group 4
MMPI, ?	2	1.6	3	10
MMPI, L	44	48	45	46
MMPI, F	74	59	57	53
MMPI, K	46	50	53	53
MMPI, Hs	46	55	54	51
MMPI, D	70	63	61	59
MMPI, Hy	63	59	60	59
MMPI, Pd	73	63	64	63
MMPI, Mf	58	60	53	58
MMPI, Pa	67	58	57	54
MMPI, Pt	75	63	65	64
MMPI, Sc	80	65	64	60
MMPI, Ma	71	67	60	62
MMPI, Si	61	57	56	52
MMPI, Es	45	52	56	56

[1]Means connected by underlining are not significantly different at $p < .05$ level as assessed by univariate F test.